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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/801,514	03/16/2004	David M. Haugen	WEAT/0116.D1	3200

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EXAMINER

WALKER, ZAKIYA NICOLE

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3672

DATE MAILED: 11/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/801,514

Applicant(s)

HAUGEN, DAVID M.

Examiner

Zakiya N. Walker

Art Unit

3672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6, 7, 9, 11-13, 19-22 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8, 10, 14-18 and 23 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06012004.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the term "the present invention provides for" is recited in line 1. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

3. The substitute specification filed 8/9/04 has not been entered because it does not conform to 37 CFR 1.125(b) and (c) because: the specification is not drawn to the present invention. Further, the substitute specification adds new matter included throughout. The new matter takes on several forms: added material not included in the claims; replacing reference numerals with ones which do not correspond to the drawings; replacing and adding figure numbers which do not correspond to the drawings; and deletion of relevant material.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 14-18, 20, and 23 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 14, line 1, the term "an" should be deleted for grammatical purposes.

Claim 15, it appears that the claim should depend from claim 10 in order to provide antecedent basis for "the counter" and "the torque sub".

Claim 16, it appears that the claim should depend from claim 14 in order to provide antecedent basis for "the acceptable values of the joint".

Claim 17, lines 1 and 2, the term --the-- should be inserted before "acceptable" and before "controller" for grammatical purposes.

Claim 18, line 2, the term "parameters" should be replaced with --values-- for consistent terminology purposes.

Claim 20, it appears that the claim should depend from claim 19 in order to provide antecedent basis for "the signal...received by the controller".

Claim 23, it appears that the claim should depend from claim 22 in order to provide antecedent basis for "the compensator".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the

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applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 6, 7, 9, 11-13, 19-22, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Snider et al. (cited by applicant).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Snider et al. discloses a system that includes a method of use for an apparatus with tubular comprising: closing a first member 222 around a first tubular 223; engaging a second member 20 to a second tubular 12; moving the second tubular to a well center; threading the second tubular to the first tubular to form a joint and thereby a tubular string; sending data from the second member to a controller 16; opening the first member; lowering the tubular string through the first member; closing the first member around the tubular string; and disengaging the second member from the tubular string. With respect to depending claims 7, 9, 12, 13, 19-22, and 24, the reference teaches the limitations as claimed, including a torque sub 60, a compensator 224, and the first member is a spider and the second member is a top drive.

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Allowable Subject Matter


7. Claims 1-5 are allowed.
8. Claims 8, 10, 14-18, and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Further, corrections to the objections in paragraph 4 above must be addressed.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zakiya N. Walker whose telephone number is (703) 305-0302. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday, 6:30 AM-5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on (703) 308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Zakiya N. Walker
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3672

ZW
November 17, 2004